

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (canceled).

1 Claim 16 (new): A dock leveller comprising:

2 a deck plate having a deck upper surface and pivotably
3 connectible with a platform;

4 a lip having a lip upper surface, the lip upper surface and
5 the deck upper surface forming at least part of a transport
6 surface;

7 a lip hinge construction with a pivot element which pivotably
8 connects an end of the lip and an end of the deck plate, wherein
9 the lip upper surface, through the pivot element, is pivotable
10 above and below a position in line with the deck upper surface;
11 and

12 a transmission member for coupling a pivotal movement of the
13 deck plate to a pivotal movement of the lip, the transmission
14 element and the deck plate constituting a parallelogram
15 construction such that the transmission member maintains the lip
16 upper surface at a substantially fixed angle with respect to the
17 platform.

1 Claim 17 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 16 wherein the
2 transmission member comprises a stiff element which is pivotably
3 connected with the lip and the platform.

1 Claim 18 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 17 wherein the
2 stiff element comprises a variable length element for pivoting a
3 front edge of the lip relative to a rear edge of the lip connected
4 with the pivot element.

1 Claim 19 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 18 wherein the
2 variable length element comprises a pneumatic or hydraulic
3 cylinder.

1 Claim 20 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 16 wherein the
2 pivot element has an upper surface which is contiguous to both the
3 lip upper surface and the deck upper surface.

1 Claim 21 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 20 wherein:
2 the lip upper surface is at least partly moved about a
3 rotation axis; and
4 the lip and the deck plate, in a coupled condition, are
5 rotatable relative to each other about the rotation axis.

1 Claim 22 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 21 wherein:
2 the lip upper surface forms at least a portion of an outer
3 surface of a cylinder; and
4 a longitudinal axis of the cylinder coincides with the
5 rotation axis.

1 Claim 23 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 22 wherein the
2 pivot element comprises a hinge element of elastically deformable
3 material.

1 Claim 24 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 20 wherein the
2 pivot element comprises a hinge element of elastically deformable
3 material.

1 Claim 25 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 21 wherein the
2 pivot element comprises a hinge element of elastically deformable
3 material.

1 Claim 26 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 16 wherein the
2 parallelogram construction is arranged such that a maximum overall
3 pivoting range of the lip, relative to the deck plate, is
4 approximately 14 degrees.

1 Claim 27 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 16 wherein the
2 parallelogram construction is arranged such that the deck plate,
3 in an operative position, is able to form an angle of no more than
4 7 degrees with respect to the platform.

1 Claim 28 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 16 wherein the
2 lip upper surface slopes down from the deck plate to a front end
3 of the lip and, in operation, is held at an angle relative to the
4 platform, the angle being less than approximately 2 degrees.

1 Claim 29 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 27 wherein the
2 angle is dependent upon a position of the deck plate, and the
3 angle increases according as the deck plate, in operation and when
4 viewed from the platform, increasingly pivots downward.

1 Claim 30 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 16 further
2 comprising an extension hinge construction, which is connected
3 with an end of the deck plate remote from the lip, and is
4 connectible with an edge of the platform.

1 Claim 31 (new): The dock leveller recited in claim 30 wherein the
2 extension hinge construction comprises:
3 the deck plate;

4 a supporting device for operatively supporting the end of
5 the deck plate, remote from the lip, on the platform edge; and
6 a rotation element supported by the supporting device and
7 situated near the platform edge, the end of the deck plate remote
8 from the lip being at least partly supported by the rotation
9 element, and the deck plate being movable relative to the
10 rotation element.